

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for defining the format of a form by a computer, wherein the form [having] comprises a plurality of layout items[,] and the layout items ~~defining~~ define the presentation of data of a business application, [the] said method comprising ~~the following steps:~~

providing a logic view with nodes to represent the layout items, wherein the logic view [(a)] displays labels associated with the nodes to visualize structure information of the form, ~~(b) to visualize~~ displays a processing order of the layout items defined by the position of the nodes, ~~(c) to visualize and displays~~ at least one of the nodes as a selected node to represent a selected layout item;

providing a property view to display properties of the selected layout item;

providing a layout view to display the layout items, wherein the selected layout item is highlighted;

modifying the selected layout item and the processing order through interaction with a user; and

creating a form definition document.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~in step~~ providing the logic view, ~~the logic view is provided~~ further comprises providing the logic view as a tree view and wherein the nodes are tree nodes so that the processing order is visualized by a root node, a plurality of branch nodes, and a plurality of leave nodes.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~in step providing logic-view~~, the plurality of branch nodes comprise condition nodes to process layout items depending on logical statements in the nodes.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein modifying the processing order through interaction comprises ~~to change~~ changing the position of the tree nodes.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the steps providing logic-view~~, providing the property view and providing the layout view are performed for a graphical user interface on a single screen.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [step] modifying comprises ~~to verify~~ verifying the compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of the business application.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~to generate~~ generating a form printing program from the form definition document, wherein the form printing program being called by the business application to print a final document.
8. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer~~ system for defining the format of a form, the form having a plurality of layout items, the layout items defining the presentation of data of a business application, [the] said computer comprising:
 - a display for providing a tree view with tree nodes to represent the layout items, wherein the tree view [(a)] displays labels associated with the tree nodes to visualize structure information of the form, (b) ~~to visualize~~ displays a processing order of the layout items by ~~the~~ a position of the tree nodes, (c) ~~to visualize~~ and displays at least one

of the tree nodes as a selected node to represent a selected layout item; for providing a property view to display properties of the selected layout item, the properties with logical statements for conditionally processing the items; for providing a layout view to display the layout items, wherein the a selected layout item is highlighted;

interaction means for modifying the selected layout item and the processing order through interaction with a user who changes the position of the tree nodes; and

storing means for creating a form definition document.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer~~ system of claim 8, further comprising verification means to verify the compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of the business application.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having computer program code instructions for defining the format of a form, the form having layout items to define data presentation of a business application, the computer program instructions causing a processor to execute the following steps:

providing a logic view with nodes to represent the layout items, wherein the logic view, ~~(a) displays labels associated with the nodes~~ to visualize structure information of the form, ~~(b) to visualize~~ displays a processing order of the layout items by the position of the nodes, ~~(c) to visualize~~ and display at least one of the nodes as a selected node to represent a selected layout item;

providing a property view to display properties of the selected layout item;

providing a layout view to display the layout items, wherein the selected layout item is highlighted;

modifying the selected layout item and the processing order through interaction with a user; and

creating a form definition document.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to execute the step of providing the logic view such that the logic view is provided as a tree view that visualizes the processing order by a root node, a plurality of branch nodes, and a plurality of (leave) nodes.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to execute the step of providing the logic view such that the plurality of branch nodes comprise condition nodes to process the layout items depending on logical statements in the nodes.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to execute the step of modifying the processing order through user interaction to change ~~the~~ a position of tree nodes.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the computer program code instructions causes the processor to execute the steps of providing the logic view, providing the property view and providing the layout view are performed for a graphical user interface on a single screen.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the computer program code instructions cause the processor to execute the step of modifying ~~such~~ to verify ~~the~~ a compatibility of the layout items and the processing order with a predefined data interface of the business application.